

REMARKS

Please change the previous Attorney Docket No. to the new Attorney Docket No. 2647-003.

The rejection of claims 1,2,11and 12 under 35 U.S.C 103 (a) as unpatentable over Rogers in view of Cipriani is respectfully traversed. These claims are believed to be patentably distinguishable by calling for "lowering string anchoring means means secured to the soundboard wherein one or more of said strings are anchored below the bridge (emphasis added)". In Applicant's invention, the lower string anchoring means are secured to the soundboard and one or more of the strings are anchored below the bridge whereas in Rogers the lower string anchoring means (pegs 40) are not anchored to the soundboard, but rather directly to the bridge (plate 15) so that it cannot be said in Rogers that one or more strings are anchored below the bridge. In Rogers, they are anchored to the bridge.

Rogers seeks to have a sideways string pull on a vertically slotted saddle, therefore removing the upward pull on the bridge/soundboard. This is accomplished entirely on the bridge, unlike in Applicant's invention. There is confusion here because in Rogers the element 25 is, in reality, a saddle whereas plate 15 on which Roger's anchors 40 are mounted is the bridge that is mounted on the soundboard. Rogers is attempting to relieve upper pressure or pull on his saw tooth saddle by diverting it to a sideways pressure. With Applicant's invention, on the other hand, the soundboard is being compressed.

To summarize, in Rogers the strings are anchored on the bridge whereas in Applicant's invention one or more strings are anchored below the bridge which anchors are secured to the soundboard, not the bridge.

Claim 2, dependent on claim 1, adds the string retainer feature.

Claim 3 has been cancelled and the Examiner having indicated that it contained allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent and clean copy form as new claim 13, incorporating the limitations of the claims on which it was dependent.

Claim 4 has been cancelled to reduce the issues involved.

Claim 5 has been cancelled and rewritten in independent and clean copy form as new claim 14. It is believed that the adjustable feature of the bridge body in and of itself represents patentable subject matter and is not shown or suggested in the prior art cited by the Examiner.

Claim 6 has been amended so as to now be dependent on newly presented claim 14.

The Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in claim 6.

Claim 7 has been cancelled and the Examiner having indicated that it contained allowable subject matter, has been rewritten in independent and clean copy form as new claim 15.

Claim 8 has been amended so as now to be dependent on newly presented claim 14.

The Examiner indicated allowable subject matter in claim 8.

Claim 9 has been cancelled to reduce the issues involved, while the subject matter of claim 10 more properly belongs in co-pending Application Serial No.

10/816,479.

Amended claim 11 is believed patentably distinguishable over the cited references for the reasons set forth with respect to the previous claims. Additionally, the cited prior art fails to disclose an underneath stabilizing bridge plate.

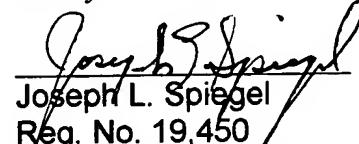
Reconsideration, allowance and passage to issuance are respectfully requested.

If there is any matter remaining that can be taken care of by telephone call or interview, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the number shown below.

Respectfully submitted,

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By


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